



State of Nevada – Department Of Personnel

CLASS SPECIFICATION

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>EEO-4</u>	<u>CODE</u>
RESEARCH TECHNICIAN	28	C	9.580

DEFINITION OF THE CLASS:

Under general supervision, performs skilled technical work on research or experimental projects in areas such as agriculture, animal and plant science, range and wildlife management, and natural resources; and performs related work as required. Work is performed under the direction of professional staff members and scientists who assign research projects, determine priorities, give professional guidance and review work for conformance to research standards. Work may be performed independently in the field, in a greenhouse, or at various agriculture research sites. Supervision may be exercised over lower level staff, students or volunteers.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)

Duties listed below are considered characteristic of the class but are not all inclusive. Duties will vary among positions depending on the research area assigned.

Conducts plant and animal field studies by trapping and tagging animals to determine foraging and migration habits and by sampling, tagging and measuring plants and/or animals to determine growth cycles, how species are spread, etc.

Prepares and organizes field and plot plantings for agricultural research by designing experimental formats; preparing fields or plots and planting seeds; applying fertilizer and herbicides within experimental parameters; tracking plant growth, soil conditions and watering cycles; and harvesting resulting crops.

Installs, maintains and repairs water measuring devices such as flumes, meters and recorders to quantify water use and to compare vegetation response to different water regimens using common hand and powered tools.

Sets up greenhouse research projects by collecting plants from the field; establishing new plantings from seeds; using propagation techniques when applicable; and developing soil, water and and fertilizing formulas. Incumbents may monitor experiment for desired results or submit the plants to a student lab as an instructional tool.

Gathers research data on livestock projects including but not limited to weighing, sorting and taking various samples (blood, fecal, etc.) at regular intervals. Stores samples in appropriate receptacles, marks receptacles and submits samples to a laboratory for analysis.

Performs public relations activities such as serving as a resource to the community, conducting tours and making presentations to classes or groups in order to project a positive image to the community.

Gathers, analyzes and assembles data and prepares reports for the professional staff using specialized instruments such as neutron probes, infrared thermometers, PH meters, microscopes, water meters, balances, and computer software.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (cont.)

Incumbents may occasionally perform tasks related to the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the research facility such as operating farm machinery and field equipment including trucks, tractors, mowers, backhoes, balers, and drilling equipment; performing preventative maintenance and minor repairs to keep the equipment in good operating condition; performing daily facility maintenance including pruning trees and shrubs, and maintaining buildings, fences, corrals, roads and other similar structures.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These may be acquired on the job and/or needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge, skills and abilities required may vary according to research assignment. Those which are characteristic of this class are: General knowledge of departmental rules, regulations, policies and procedures.

Ability to use various scientific apparatus in the assigned research area to test, sample and gather data. Ability to respond to public inquiries, conduct tours and make group presentations. Ability to work with several research programs and project leaders.

ENTRY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral, performance or other evaluation procedures.)

Working knowledge of the principles, practices and objectives in the assigned research area such as agronomy, soil science, horticulture, range and wildlife management, water conservation and greenhouse maintenance. General knowledge of applicable research techniques, terminology and their applications.

Ability to read, record and interpret research data. Ability to organize work and prepare projects without constant supervision. Ability to operate and maintain field and farm equipment such as trucks, backhoes, tractors, balers or drilling equipment. Ability to make repairs on farm, field or greenhouse structures and fixtures. Ability to do heavy manual labor. Ability to follow detailed written or oral instructions and procedures.

Skill in the use of common hand and power tools.

SPECIAL NOTE:

In order to meet the needs of the research areas, positions may require specialized background and skills. Any specialized background required will be identified for recruitment purposes within the parameters of the class specification.

EDUCATION AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCE:

I

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in biological, soil or crop science or appropriate field and two years of experience related to the assigned research area in which the applicant performed duties equivalent to preparing experimental field plots, preparing feed rations according to research criteria and collecting and/or recording simple field data; OR

II

Graduation from high school or the equivalent and three years of experience related to the assigned research area in which the applicant performed duties equivalent to those described in option I; OR

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (cont.)

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: (cont.)

III

An equivalent combination of education and experience that provided the incumbent with the entry level knowledge, skills and abilities.

This class specification is used for classification, recruitment and examination purposes. It is not to be considered a substitute for work performance standards for positions assigned to this class.

ESTABLISHED:	<u>9.580</u>
	7/1/64
REVISED:	11/16/72
REVISED:	7/11/75
REVISED:	7/1/87P
	10/17/86PC
REVISED:	7/1/91P
	11/29/90PC